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International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Twenty-first Meeting

Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 9 September 2002, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Ndiaye ..... (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chairman: Mr. Kuchinsky ..... (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. **The Temporary Chairman** reviewed developments since the previous Meeting of States parties, held on 14 December 2000. Eritrea had become a party to the Covenant. Five additional States (Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Mali, Mexico and Yugoslavia) had become parties to the Optional Protocol, and three States (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania and Yugoslavia) had become parties to the Second Optional Protocol. The total number of States parties to the Covenant was now 149, of which 102 were parties to the first Optional Protocol and 47 to the Second Optional Protocol. Increasing adherence to the Covenant and the growth in membership of other United Nations treaty bodies reflected the growing recognition in the world of the importance of human rights and the need to strengthen and extend observance of international legal norms.

2. In the period under review the Human Rights Committee had held six sessions, during which it had examined 26 initial and periodic reports from States parties. In the absence of a report due from one State party, it had adopted provisional Concluding Observations on the situation in that country. It had adopted General Comment No. 29 on derogations from the provisions of the Covenant in times of public emergency (article 4 of the Covenant), and General Comment No. 30 on the reporting obligations of States parties under the Covenant, which superseded General Comment No. 1 on the same subject.

3. The Committee had registered 164 new cases under the Optional Protocol procedure, and had adopted 47 Views on communications, declaring 23 inadmissible and 8 admissible. During its seventy-fourth session it had taken a number of decisions spelling out the modalities for following up Concluding Observations, including the appointment of a Special Rapporteur for that purpose. It had also taken decisions on its working methods, with a view to streamlining and making more effective the procedure for the examination of States parties' reports.

4. During its seventy-fifth session the Committee had applied for the first time its new procedure for dealing with non-reporting States. It had considered, without a report and in the absence of a delegation, measures taken by a State party to give effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant, subsequently adopting Concluding Observations on the situation of civil and political rights in that State party.

Election of the Chairman

5. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein) nominated Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine) for the office of Chairman.

6. *Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

7. *Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/SP/59)

8. *The agenda was adopted.*

9. **The Chairman** noted that, although under rule 2 of the rules of procedure the credentials of representatives and the names of members of delegations were to be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting, a number of States parties represented at the Meeting had not yet submitted their credentials. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States parties should be authorized provisionally to participate in the Meeting. He urged those representatives to ensure that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

10. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers

11. **The Chairman** said that Mr. Husseim (Ethiopia), Ms. Tobing-Klein (Suriname) and Mr. Boisson (Monaco) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairman.

12. *Mr. Husseim (Ethiopia), Ms. Tobing-Klein (Suriname) and Mr. Boisson (Monaco) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

Election, in accordance with articles 28 to 32 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of nine members of the Human Rights Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2002 (CCPR/SP/58 and Add.1-3)

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to the particulars of candidates nominated by States parties to fill the nine vacancies on the Human Rights Committee. The

Secretariat had been informed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had withdrawn its two candidatures. Accordingly, there were now 11 candidates for the nine seats. He also drew attention to the voting procedure and other relevant provisions of articles 30 and 31 of the Covenant.

14. He invited representatives to elect by secret ballot nine members of the Human Rights Committee.

15. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Elliott (Guyana), Ms. Stanley (Ireland) and Ms. Rotich-Mathews (Kenya) acted as tellers.*

16. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	143
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	143
Abstentions:	none
Number of representatives voting:	*143*
Required majority:	*72*
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Bhagwati (India)	136
Mr. Ando (Japan)	134
Mr. Kalin (Switzerland)	131
Ms. Chanet (France)	130
Mr. Amor (Tunisia)	129
Mr. Solari Yrigoyen (Argentina)	125
Ms. Wedgwood (United States of America)	123
Mr. Wieruszewski (Poland)	106
Mr. Hoyos (Panama)	88
Mr. Villanueva (Honduras)	76
Ms. Zilbershats (Israel)	50

17. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Amor (Tunisia), Mr. Ando (Japan), Mr. Bhagwati (India), Ms. Chanet (France), Mr. Hoyos (Panama), Mr. Kalin (Switzerland), Mr. Solari Yrigoyen (Argentina), Ms. Wedgwood (United States of America) and Mr. Wieruszewski (Poland) were elected members of the Human Rights Committee.*

The meeting rose at noon.